

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 remain active in this case.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi (US Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0137529).

In light of the renewed ground for rejection, independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention and thereby more clearly patentably define over the cited prior art reference. To that end, Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to clarify what is meant by the recitation of a "predetermined time," in response to the lack of weight given to the "predetermined time" feature. In this respect, the specification, at pages 50-51 states,

...For example, this embodiment of the present invention can avoid the following situation: if the apparatus 9000 outputs several requests for the acquisition of a monitoring image within one second, the apparatus 1000 provides the apparatus 9000 with several different images within one second  
...

In accordance with such disclosure, Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to further define "a predetermined time" as --a predetermined time which is shorter than at least one second--. In view of the noted support in the specification, no new matter has been added.

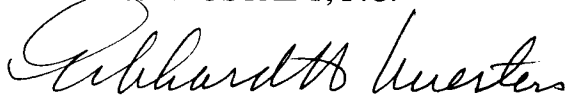
The present amendment is consistent with Applicants' response to the first Official Action dated October 10, 2006. In that response, it was noted that in Takahashi, the operation of "receiving a plurality of requests within a predetermined time" is performed in order to shift an operation to a next one if there is no response from any surrounding device within a predetermined time (which is generally used as timeout processing). In contrast, instead of being directed to a timeout mechanism, Applicants' invention is directed to an

operation of receiving image acquisition requests from a single device repeatedly with a high frequency (typically several times per second), and thus fundamentally differs from Takahashiin function. The present amendment is made to accentuate this fundamental functional distinction and is thereby believed to patentably define over Takahashi.

Accordingly, in view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding grounds for rejection have been overcome by the present amendment. As no further issues are believed to be outstanding, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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